



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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Shana Jones, Special Assistant

Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer

(210) 384-7440

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**NEW MEXICO MAN CHARGED WITH
THREATENING TO DESTROY BANK BY EXPLOSIVE**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that a federal grand jury in El Paso, Texas, returned an indictment charging 31-year-old David A. Grassi of Alamogordo, New Mexico, with making a bomb threat.

The indictment alleges that around 1:00 p.m. on August 14, 2003, Grassi entered the Wells Fargo Bank located at 221 North Kansas in El Paso and made a bomb threat. A criminal complaint filed in this case states that after completing a withdrawal transaction, the defendant informed a teller that he had placed a bomb inside the bank. As a result of the defendant's actions, the entire 21-story building was evacuated for over two hours while a search for the destructive device was conducted. No explosive device was found inside the building.

If convicted, the defendant faces a maximum ten years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and El Paso Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Greg McDonald is prosecuting the case for the government.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.